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Advocacy Training & Resource Center



Advocacy Training and Resource Center  
Annual Report 2005



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# Letter from the Executive Director

The year 2005 followed two extremely active years for ATRC that helped the organization establish itself as one of the most influential and active Advocacy NGOs in Kosovo. What made the preceding years hard acts to follow was also the fact that 2005 was a year of transition for ATRC. This was the time when the three-year USAID-EWMI funded Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project (KNAP) finished and the Kosovo Civil Society Program (KCSP) started under the new partnership between USAID and IREX.

What we had to take care of was make this as seamless a transition as possible, so that our mission wouldn't suffer. This turned up to be not as easy as it first appeared, as it also coincided with fundamental changes within the ATRC structure. These included changing of the ATRC Board; and numerous changes in staff composition, including my appointment as Executive Director, taking over from Kreshnik Berisha, all of which had the capability of creating a precarious vacuum. However, we took advantage of this, by taking this time to review our position and capacities, and undertake necessary changes for continued contribution in a constantly changing NGO environment. This way, we strengthened our capacity-building component by creating an in-house training capacity in our organization with 4 full-time trainers now at ATRC; and have reorganized ATRC almost from scratch.

To cut the long story short, 2005 was an extremely busy year (just short of turbulent), but it was also an important one for the future of ATRC. Our most relevant success was establishing good ties with Governmental Institutions in tackling good governance issues. This way, we have been a leading NGO in the Anti-Corruption Campaign, Freedom of Information Act awareness raising and other public participation in decision-making projects.

On the other hand, we have undertaken dozens of training sessions and public discussions on different topics. Among the ones I would like to mention were the End of KNAP Conference, where hundreds of NGO representatives presented and reviewed the KNAP experience. The participants at the Conference identified successful strategies for further enhancing the effectiveness of advocacy efforts in Kosovo and came up with a number of concrete recommendations in different advocacy fields. Then, there were the popular How the Government Works workshop series that focused on Justice System, Kosovo Police Service, and Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Budget; teamed up with Public Policy trainings and public discussions on Kosovo's most pressing issues featuring main political and civil-society actors.

All this and much more wouldn't have been possible without our partners, who are very important to us and deserve special thanks for what ATRC has achieved until now. On the other hand, we want to mention the contribution of the American people through USAID that have made our activities possible. USAID's impact on our activities has been instrumental. Many other donors have also helped our activities. Special thanks must go to IREX and East West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI). Their structural and technical support has been essential to our activities. Their trust in our abilities has allowed us to develop a truly local NGO in accordance with international standards. They gave us the expertise we needed, but also allowed us to learn how to run things ourselves and become sustainable.

For the future, we plan to expand the list of partners, donors and supporters of ATRC, in order to increase the level and volume of effectiveness of our work. In the mean time, we will continue to enhance our Information and Training Programs in order to serve Advocacy NGOs with resources needed for them to become more successful in their work. No doubt about it, we will continue our mission to bring out the advocate in everyone.

Sincerely,  
**Rreze Duli**  
**ATRC Executive Director**



# Introduction

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## Mission

**The Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) is a Kosovar nonprofit organization that works to increase citizen and civil society participation in decision-making, as a prerequisite for a developed democratic society and regional stability.**

**ATRC works with representatives from civil society, civic initiatives, political entities, and the media regardless of religion, political affiliation, ethnicity, age, gender, capability and sexual orientation.**

**ATRC accomplishes its goals through advocacy, training, information exchange and networking in and out of Kosovo.**





Since its establishment in 2001, the Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) in Prishtina has assisted numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Kosovo to professionalize their work, articulate their demands, and advocate to government structures about issues affecting them.

In order to achieve its mission, ATRC organizes trainings, public debates, and legislative briefings on pressing issues in Kosovo, cooperates with other NGOs on Kosovo-wide advocacy campaigns that focus on democratic development and public participation, and hosts a resource center and library with publications on social, political, and economic issues related to Kosovo and the Balkans.

During its first three and a half years, ATRC was an implementing partner for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project. During that time, it cooperated closely with East-West Management Institute, Inc. which led the project and the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives, a local grant-giving organization. Through the project, ATRC provided training, capacity-building, advocacy support, and information-sharing opportunities for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout Kosovo and abroad.

In mid-2005, ATRC became an implementing partner for the Kosovar Civil Society Program, led by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) and supported by USAID. ATRC has since experienced changes in its staff members, leadership, board, and programs. We at ATRC feel that these changes have enabled us to improve the quality of our services. We have added qualified expert trainers to our team, which has enhanced the quality of training available to non-governmental organizations in Kosovo. We have acquired new board members, which have been more involved in providing input and overseeing the organization's operations. And, our public relations department has worked to give ATRC a new look as well as to reach a broader audience through revisions to our website and newsletter.

## Supporters

In order to carry out its various programs and activities, ATRC depends upon the financial and human resources provided by its supporters.

- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**
- **International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)**
- **East-West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI)**
- **Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD)**
- **Article 19**
- **European Commission**
- **Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI)**
- **IPKO Institute (IPKO)**
- **International IDEA (IDEA)**
- **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**

## About this Report

The ATRC 2005 Annual Report provides partners, supporters, and the public with an overview of our work and activities. The report describes the activities undertaken from January through December 2005 in our three primary programs: Training & Capacity Building, Information, and Advocacy. Information about ATRC's financial expenditures in 2005 and contact information are provided at the end of the report. More information about ATRC can be accessed at: [www.advocacy-center.org](http://www.advocacy-center.org)

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## Partners

With time, the number of organizations and institutions that ATRC considers partners have grown in number. In 2005, ATRC forged new partnerships with various institutions and governmental bodies in an effort to link citizens with decision-makers. All together, ATRC's partners have provided moral support, shared expertise, and cooperated closely with ATRC on various projects and activities.

- **Albanian National Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center (ANTTARC)**
- **Article 19**
- **Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN)**
- **Care International Kosovo**
- **The Center for Gender Training and Research**
- **East-West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI)**
- **Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI)**
- **International Center for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL)**
- **International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)**
- **Kosovo Exporting Agency**
- **Kosovar Institute for NGO Law (IKDO)**
- **Kosovo NGO Advocacy Network (AvoKo)**
- **Kosovar Research and Documentation Institute (KODI)**
- **Kosova Women's Network (KWN)**
- **People in Peril Association (Slovakia)**
- **MJAFT! (Albania)**
- **National Albanian American Council (NAAC) Hope Fellowship**
- **National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)**
- **The Republican Club**
- **SFERA – Institute for Social and Policy Studies**
- **Shevolution and Eyecatcher Associates (United Kingdom)**
- **Stay In Partners (Slpar)**



## Training & Capacity Building Program

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**The ATRC Training and Capacity Building Program aims to provide representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with the tools that they need to influence change in their communities. Over the past four years, this program has offered training in working with the media, advocacy, organizational management, strategic planning, how the government works, and various other topics affecting NGOs. As organizations have encountered new challenges, ATRC has designed more advanced trainings specifically tailored to meet their needs. In 2005, ATRC provided 19 trainings in which more than 397 people participated. The trainings focused on the following topics.**

### Advanced Public Policy

In January 2005, ATRC organized a three-day "Advanced Public Policy" training. The training was led by two professors specializing in public policy development from the State University of New York (SUNY): Professor Robert T. Nakamura and Professor Mark Baskin. The training was specifically tailored to meet the needs of the eight local think-tanks and institutes that participated. During the training, participants analyzed the papers that some of these think-tanks wrote about the March 2004 violence in Kosovo, receiving feedback from the professors. Then, the training focused on ways to improve the effectiveness of these organizations' public policy analyses in order to better address needs in Kosovo. In the context of Kosovo's new government, the trainers helped participants better understand the role of their policy analysis in democratic development and how to influence the government public policy agenda by offering ideas and examples from their own rich experience in this field.





## How the Government Works: The Justice System in Kosovo

On February 14, ATRC organized a one-day workshop entitled “How the Government Works: The Justice System in Kosovo.” The workshop provided an opportunity for local and international governmental and non-governmental representatives to exchange information about the Kosovo judicial system. The speakers informed participants about the structure of the justice system, problems the system faces, planned reforms, and NGOs’ activities in this field.

## Experience Exchange: Advocacy in Albania and Kosovo

In February and March, ATRC organized a two-day training entitled “Exchange of Experiences in Advocacy between Albania and Kosovo.” This training was organized together with the “MJAFT!” movement in Albania. Two MJAFT! representatives, Arbian Mazniku and Marinela Lika, led the training. They provided examples of creative ways to mobilize citizens, undertake advocacy, and net-

work based on their experience. As a follow-up, Kosovo NGO Advocacy Network (AvoKo) representatives and two ATRC staff members went on a study visit to Albania where they saw the work of MJAFT! firsthand.

## How the Government Works: The Kosovo Police Service

On March 14, as part of the “How the Government Works” series, ATRC cooperated with the Kosovar Research and Documentation Institute (KODI) to organize a one-day workshop entitled “The Role of the Kosovo Police Service and its Future Transformation.” The speakers informed participants about the competences of the Kosovo Police Service (KPS); Kosovo Police School efforts to prepare KPS officers for their future role; the problems KPS faced; and, the process of transferring powers from UNMIK to local institutions, especially KPS. During the workshop, KODI presented its recent research findings, recommending that an Interior Affairs Ministry be formed to offer more specialized services to the residents of Kosovo.

## How the Government Works: The Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Budget

On April 26, ATRC organized an informative workshop on "How the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Budget of Kosovo Work" as part of the "How the Government Works" series. Agim Krasniqi, National Budget Director explained the structure and work of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Following questions from participants, he explained the budgeting process for municipalities. The second speaker, Chris Kaufmann, consultant at MEF, discussed Kosovo's economy, focusing on balance of trade issues. The third speaker Elmaze Pireva, deputy-head of the Kosovo Revenue Authority, offered a detailed review of how taxes were collected and tax requirements for NGOs.

## Monitoring Public Policy

In the second week of May 2005, following several preliminary trainings on public policy organized for grant applicants to the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI) "Monitoring Public Policy" program, ATRC organized a two-day training that focused on "Monitoring Public Policy." This training targeted NGOs that were engaged previously in monitoring public policies or that displayed strong potential for future engagement in public policy issues. Participants acquired a clear understanding as to the importance of monitoring the implementation of public policies and obtained skills for monitoring public policies in the future.

## Training Workshops for FDI Grant

In November, the ATRC Training Team held five training workshops on "Project Proposal Design" for NGOs that were preparing applications for IREX-FDI partnership and networking grants. Four workshops took place in Prishtina at the ATRC Training Center, and one was held North Mitrovica. These highly interactive workshops drew 148 participants from 108 NGOs operating throughout Kosovo. During the workshops, NGOs received practical advice and expertise for designing and writing their project proposals. These workshops represented the first ATRC activities in support of the NGO sector as part of the Kosovar Civil Society Program.

## One to One Consultancies

In order to ensure greater impact, ATRC initiated a new program as part of the Kosovar Civil Society Program, through which it began providing one-to-one consultancies for NGOs. NGO representatives received advice tailored to meet the specific needs of their organizations on a range of issues dealing with project proposal writing, organizational development, and fundraising. During 2005, there were seven NGO's that benefited from the consultancy services of ATRC, one of them being Kosovo Youth Network, which resulted in them receiving a grant from Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI), as part of IREX/KCSP program.





## Information Program

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**The ATRC Information Program supports the exchange of information between NGOs, governmental institutions, elected officials, and citizens through public discussions, legislative briefings, conferences, a monthly e-newsletter, and the ATRC website. Public discussions, often organized in cooperation with other NGOs, government offices, or experts, aim to inform citizens about key issues affecting their lives. In 2005, ATRC co-organized the end of KNAP Conference, and organized 14 discussions, debates and seminars on the following topics.**

### The End of Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project Conference

#### Building democracy through grassroots advocacy – The experience of Kosovo

The conference, organized on May 5-6, 2005, provided an analysis of four years of advocacy work by Kosovar NGOs that were supported by KNAP – Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project. KNAP was a cooperative agreement between USAID and East-West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI) and was implemented by the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI) based in Gjakova and the Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) in Pristina.

Conference participants included Kosovar NGO members and leaders, public officials and politicians from the local and central level, and international NGOs and donors. The Prime Minister of Kosovo, Bajram Kosumi, provided the opening remarks. On the second day, the Head of the United States Office in Kosovo, Phillip Goldberg was the special guest.





The NGO representatives presented their experiences advocating for increased public participation in decision-making and their experiences in building democratic practices and institutions in Kosovo.

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The participants identified successful strategies for further enhancing the effectiveness of advocacy efforts in Kosovo. In conclusion, they provided a number of concrete recommendations for 1) building the capacity of NGOs for advocacy; 2) developing a strategy for advocacy at the local level; 3) developing a strategy for advocacy at the central level and United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK); and 4) mobilizing citizens to be involved in decision-making.

### Water from Wells Endangering Lives

Local organization "Water for the New Millennium" presented its research findings at a public debate organized at ATRC in January. The debate brought representatives of local and international NGOs together with specialists from governmental institutions to discuss environmental concerns in Kosovo. At the discussion, participants learned about current issues related to water pollution in Kosovo. The debate was followed by several media outlets.

### Draft Legislation on the Freedom of Association for NGOs

In February, ATRC organized a public debate to inform members of local NGOs about the new draft law on freedom of association for NGOs. The purpose of the debate was to explain the provisions within the law to NGOs as well as to raise their awareness as to how the proposed law would impact their activities. The debate generated much media coverage both in newspapers and on television. Afterwards, local and international NGOs came together in an attempt to prevent the promulgation of the law and to advocate for changes to some of the provisions within the law.



## How the Payment System Functions in Kosovo

In March, ATRC and Business Club Prizren (BCP) co-organized a public discussion entitled “How the payment system functions in Kosovo.” At the debate, BCP presented their study on delays in banking transactions in Kosovo. The debate brought together representatives from different institutions involved in monetary transactions within or between banks to discuss which institution was responsible for transaction delays. Various local and international NGOs participated, including representatives from “Oda Ekonomike” and World Bank.



## Decentralization and the Pilot Project

In April, ATRC organized a public discussion on “Decentralization and the Pilot Project” to inform NGOs and the public about the latest developments in this highly controversial plan. This was the first public debate that dealt with this issue, and more than thirty members of local and international organizations attended. Local media such as the Prishtina dailies “Lajm” and “Koha Ditore” covered the debate.



## Standards: Why are they important for me?

In May, AvoKo organized a public debate on standards for Kosovo at ATRC. This debate was one in a series of debates that AvoKo held in 15 municipalities throughout Kosovo as part of the Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project-funded campaign “Standards: Why are they important for me?” At the debate, Deputy Prime Minister Adem Salihaj and Deputy Mayor of Pristina Shefki Gashi presented the government institutions’ perspective on standards. Florina Duli from the Republican Club presented the NGO perspective. Various NGO representatives participated in this debate, which was covered by the daily newspaper “Koha Ditore” and RTV21.



## Seminar on Transitional Justice

On April 4-5, KODI, ATRC, The Republican Club, and the International Center for Transitional Justice organized a seminar entitled “Transitional Justice: The Missing Part of the Kosovo Puzzle.” The conference, held at the Grand Hotel Prishtina, aimed to introduce the concept of transitional justice to Kosovo. Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi and Head of the United States Office in Prishtina (USOP) Phillip Goldberg opened the seminar. More than fifty people participated in the seminar, which was covered by electronic and print media.



## Security Issues in Kosovo

In May, ATRC, FDI, the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, The Republican Club and the Kosovo Women's Network organized a public discussion on security issues affecting the Kosovar public. The speakers included Jakup Krasniqi – Minister of Parliament from the Democratic Party of Kosovo, Gjylnaze Sylja – Minister of Parliament from the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo, Teuta Sahatçiu – Minister of Parliament from the civil movement ORA, as well as representatives from the Democratic League of Kosovo and security institutions. The entire debate, moderated by Jeta Xharra, was shown on public television (RTK).



## International IDEA Publication on Local Democracy

In the beginning of May, ATRC translated and published a paper written by Dr. Mark Baskin entitled "Developing Local Democracy in Kosovo" as a part of International IDEA's Program on Democracy Building and Conflict Management. The paper was derived from the conclusions of a seminar on local democracy in Kosovo held on November 20-21, 2003 at the United Nation's Development Program (UNDP) Governance Center in Oslo, Norway. The publication was published in Albanian and Serbian.

## Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project Documentary Film

ATRC produced a 30-minute documentary film entitled "Building Democracy through Grassroots Advocacy," which tells stories of projects funded through the Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project that aimed to influence decision-making in Kosovo's municipal and national government. The film was screened on May 30, 2005 at ATRC. At the same time, ATRC publicly launched its 2004 Annual Report and the International IDEA "Developing Local Democracy in Kosovo" publication.



## Kosovo Anti-Corruption Council

In October, ATRC facilitated the selection and nomination of civil society representatives to sit on the Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency Council, which is a part of the Government. NGO representatives who attended the meeting voted in favor of forming a coalition for anti-corruption activities. They stressed the need to include media organizations in the co-

alition given the media's crucial role in fighting corruption in Kosovo. Participants also agreed upon the coalition's principles and initial functions. NGO representatives elected Bashkim Rrahmani, Executive Director of the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives, as the civil society representative in this coalition. ATRC will continue to provide assistance for activities that combat corruption.

## Presentations of Foundation for Democratic Initiatives Grants

In November, as part of the IREX - Kosovar Civil Society Program supported by USAID, ATRC, FDI and IREX representatives held seven informational meetings with the purpose of introducing grant criteria, proposal guidelines, and other requirements to organizations interested in applying for grants from FDI. At the presentations, application materials for the partnership and networking grants program launched by FDI in November were distributed. The meetings were open to all local NGOs that had demonstrated partnership and networking between NGOs and with other sectors. FDI grant target areas included: transparency and anti-corruption; community development; and, ethnic reconciliation and conflict mitigation.

## Corruption in Our Society: What do we do to fight it?

In December, ATRC organized a debate regarding the issue of corruption in Kosovo. The purpose of the debate was to discuss and review current and potential future mechanisms for combating corruption in Kosovo. Most panelists and participants agreed upon ways fight corruption more effectively: implement the existing Anti-Corruption Law; prosecute corrupt individuals; develop a broad coalition against corruption; and, hold more debates on the issue. Through this event, ATRC helped promote the newly founded local Organization for Democracy, Anticorruption and Dignity – "Çohu".

## Pension System in Kosovo: Success or Failure?

In December, ATRC and KODI organized a debate that brought pensioners and institutions responsible for pensions together to address issues related to the quality of pension services available in Kosovo. Most participants concluded that the pension system in Kosovo is a total failure, and the position of pensioners in society must be improved. Participants agreed that discussions on this issue should continue and that a NGO coalition should be created to advocate on behalf of pensioners. ATRC intends to continue working with institutions administering pensions as well as pensioners' formal and informal associations to address the specific issues related to pensions in Kosovo.

## Diplomacy, Negotiations, and Civil Society

In December, ATRC organized a roundtable with local organizations and Miroslav Lajčák, General Director for Political Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia. The discussion focused on the role of civil society in laying the foundation for a multiethnic Kosovo. Also present in the panel was Ms. Eliska Slavikova, a representative of "People in Peril Association", an NGO based in Slovakia, Bratislava. Mr. Lajčák shared experiences from his country where Slovakian NGOs collaborated with the government on this issue. The government of Slovakia in cooperation with the "People in Peril Association" offered to organize a meeting in Bratislava between Kosovo and Serbian NGOs to discuss ways for these NGOs to communicate with each other. The Slovakian delegation also announced funding opportunities from the government of Slovakia.



## ATRC Newsletter "The Advocate"

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ATRC continued to issue its monthly electronic newsletter "The Advocate". In 2005, a new dimension was added to the newsletter; it now provides practical guides and information that local NGOs and other interested parties can use in their work. Each month, "The Advocate" was sent electronically to hundreds of NGOs and potential supporters throughout Kosovo and internationally. "The Advocate" is available in English, Albanian, and Serbian languages. Starting with the May issue, "The Advocate" is available on the ATRC and FDI websites: [www.advocacy-center.org](http://www.advocacy-center.org) and [www.fdi-kosovo.org](http://www.fdi-kosovo.org), respectively.

ATRC Website: [www.advocacy-center.org](http://www.advocacy-center.org)

In 2005, ATRC began the process of upgrading the website in order to make it more attractive and relevant for users. Since October 1, ATRC has had 1,432 hits to its website.





## Advocacy Program

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**In an effort to ensure greater citizen participation in the development of Kosovar democratic institutions and practices, ATRC supports organizations effecting change within their communities, municipalities, Kosovo, and regionally by providing a forum for networking, information-sharing, and grass roots activism through its Advocacy Program. During 2005, ATRC was involved in the following advocacy projects.**

### AvoKo Network Campaign to Raise Awareness about Standards

In April and May 2005, the Kosovo NGO Advocacy Network (AvoKo) undertook a campaign to raise public awareness about United Nations (UN) Standards for Kosovo with support from ATRC. The standards include eight benchmarks set in place by the UN, which Kosovars must demonstrate progress towards in order for discussions surrounding the final political status of Kosovo to begin. The goal of this campaign was to increase citizen support for the standards implementation process by increasing public knowledge about what the Standards for Kosovo entail in concrete terms and the greater context of the process. Fifteen public debates on the topic “Standards: Why are they important for me?” were organized in 15 municipalities with approximately 500 people participating.

In addition, a brochure was produced with information about the eight UN Benchmarks for Kosovo. The brochure explained the importance of meeting those benchmarks and what role citizens can play in the process of implementing benchmarks. The brochures were distributed widely throughout Kosovo. A television advertisement was produced in which Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi, Kosovo Protection Corps Commander Agim Çeku, and civil society representative Igballë Rogova encouraged citizens to support the benchmarks implementation process.



## Implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOI)

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As part of a regional effort to implement Freedom of Information Acts supported by the European Commission and Article 19, ATRC filed a request for separate official documents at the Ministry of Culture within the Provisional Institutions for Self-Governance (PISG). The documents requested were related to a cultural event funded by the ministry called "The Magical Song." ATRC filed the request to see if funding for the event was spent properly. After numerous attempts, ATRC still was not granted permission to see the public documents. ATRC used this experience to create a case study for further use during ATRC freedom of information advocacy activities.

As part of this project, ATRC also organized two two-day workshops entitled "Freedom of Information in Kosovo: How can we use the Law on Access to Official Documents."

ATRC also signed a memorandum of understanding for implementing the Law on Access to Official Documents in Kosovo with the Head of the Office for Good Governance within the Prime Minister's Office.

In order to assess awareness and perceptions about the Freedom of Information Act in Kosovo, ATRC contracted Index Kosova Ltd. to conduct an opinion survey with the general public and public officials. The qualitative and quantitative research findings will help ATRC develop a freedom of information campaign with the purpose of supporting the law's implementation. The campaign will be done in close cooperation with governmental offices responsible for the law's implementation.

## Advocating against the NGO Law

After the Assembly of Kosovo approved the Freedom of Association in NGOs Law, which includes amendments that violate international freedom of association legislation, ATRC, the Kosovar Institute for NGO Law (IKDO), and the Council for Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms (CDHRF) sent a petition to the UNMIK Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) and his legal office. More than 120 NGOs signed the petition. The petition was presented in March at a meeting with the SRSG's Legal Adviser, Alexander Borg-Olivier. At the meeting, after hearing the NGO representatives' case, he said that UNMIK would intervene only in cases where the Constitutional Framework or Resolution 1244 was breached. Although he agreed with the NGO delegation, he said that in this case he did not see a clear, strong argument for rejecting the law and returning it to the PISG. The NGO group sent Alexander Borg-Olivier further arguments on the disputed provisions.

## Anti-Corruption Coalition

On February 8, ATRC organized a planning retreat at Batilava Lake within the Anti-Corruption Coalition, which includes representatives from the government and civil society. The purpose of the retreat was to plan an anti-corruption public information campaign and training program. The retreat was funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The Director of the Kosovar Research and Documentation Institute and the ATRC Director cooperated to draft the Kosovo Anti-Corruption Action Plan for the Kosovo government as part of the Council of Europe Program against Corruption and Organized Crime in South-eastern Europe (PACO).

## AvoKo Study Visit to "Mjaft!" Movement in Albania

In April, representatives from five AvoKo member organizations traveled to Tirana for a three-day study visit during which they met with "Mjaft!" representatives and their partners. The study visit meetings were tailored to AvoKo members' individual needs and included talks about potential advocacy campaigns with specialists on the environment, education, development, and judicial issues. AvoKo and "Mjaft!" members discussed the possibility of cooperating on a common advocacy campaign. During the study visit, AvoKo members also met with Edi Rama, Mayor of Tirana. Mjaft! and AvoKo plan to continue their cooperation in the future.

## Increasing Public Participation in Decision-making

In partnership with the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI), ATRC implemented a project that aimed to increase public participation in decision-making. The purpose of Public Participation Project, financed by the Balkan Trust for Democracy, was to increase citizen participation in decision making, through grant giving to NGOs, training of municipal officials and civil society, and public discussions.

As part of the project, in March ATRC organized six trainings in three municipalities: Klina, Istog, and Dragash. In total, approximately 70 participants took part. "How to facilitate public participation" and "Building Relations with Citizens for Better Public Participation and Existing Public Participation Legislation" were the topics of the trainings, which were offered to municipal officials and civil society representatives in these municipalities. The purpose of these trainings was to increase the capacity and knowledge of NGOs, citizens, and government officials on the importance of increasing public participation in decision-making. The trainers, Enver Hasani (Professor at the University of Prishtina) and Emrush Azemi (a trainer from the Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project), provided the participants with examples from other countries on how to better facilitate public participation. They also assisted the participants with planning efforts that they could undertake according to their needs.

Another component of the Public Participation Project was public debates, which were organized in four towns: Klina, Istog, Dragash, and Prishtina. The purpose of these debates was to raise the population's awareness about the approval of a regulation for the inclusion of public participation in local decision-making.

Following examples from the municipalities of Decan and Vitia, where such regulations were previously approved with support from FDI and ATRC, NGOs from the municipalities of Dragash, Klina, and Istog successfully advocated for similar regulations in their municipal assemblies. They received support from the Peja based NGO, "Syri i Ardhmerise". These regulations ensure that citizens can take part in municipal meetings, contact their local officials, and have access to all official documents.

# Financial Statement



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April 4, 2006

Attn: ATRC Board of Directors  
Rr. Agim Ramadani, 15 (2nd Floor)  
Prishtina - Kosova

We have audited the financial statements and supplementary financial data of Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) expressed in EUR, for the period January – December 31, 2005. These financial statements and supplementary financial data are the responsibility of the project's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the aforementioned financial information based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the reporting forms are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the reporting forms. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the proper accounting and reporting of the data on the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial information present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ATRC as of December 31, and the results of operations in accordance with International Standards of Accounting and Kosovo Standards of Accounting.

Bashkim Uka





For the period ending  
January - December 31, 2005

## Balance Sheet

Assets	Notes	EUR	Liabilities	Notes	EUR
Cash	1	25,494.34	Accounts Payable		0
Accounts Receivable			Grants Payable		0
Notes Receivable			Deferred Revenue		0
Inventory			Mortgages and other Notes payable		0
Investments			Other Liabilities		0
Securities			<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>0</b>
Other					
Land, Buildings and Equipment	2	9,053.31	<b>Fund Balance:</b>		
Other Assets	2	14,519.89			
			Fund Balance as of 1 January 2005	3	74,135.75
			Excess (from income statement)		-25,068.21
			<b>Total Balance:</b>		<b>49,067.54</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>49,067.54</b>	<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance:</b>		<b>49,067.54</b>

## Income Statement

Revenue	Notes	EUR	Expenses	Notes	EUR
Contributions, gifts or grants	4	177,082.55	Program services	5	152,257.2
Fees and revenues from activities	4	1,560.00	Management and Administration		51,453.57
Dues			Other Expenses		
Dividends and interest					
Rents					
Other investment income			<b>Total Expenses:</b>		203,710.76
Sale of assets					
(less cost of sales)			<b>Net Income from Operations:</b>		<b>-25,068.21</b>
Special event revenue					
Gross sales of inventory					
(less cost of goods sold)					
Other revenue			Taxes		
<b>Total Revenue:</b>		<b>178,642.55</b>	<b>Net Income:</b>		<b>-25,068.21</b>

## ATRC board members

**Igballe Rogova**

*Executive Director; Kosovo Women's Network*

**Ilaz Ramajli**

*Lawyer; Ramajli and Partners*

**Sejdi Osmani**

*Administrative Director; RIINVEST*

**Petrit Selimi**

*Media Project*

**Anton Berishaj**

*Professor; University of Prishtina*

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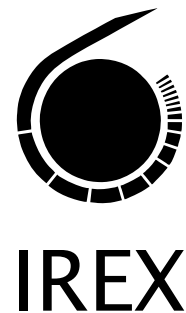
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